

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims with the following listing of claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A condylar implant for mounting on the proximal end of a tibia, the condylar implant comprising:

a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface, the top articular surface being adapted to mate with a femoral condyle;

a stem downwardly projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate, the stem being permanently fixed to the bearing plate ~~the bearing plate and the stem comprising a unitary member that is fabricated from a single piece of material~~; and

means for connecting a fastener to the stem.

15. (Original) A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the stem has a central longitudinal axis and the stem is oriented so as to form an angle between the central longitudinal axis of the stem and the bottom surface of the bearing plate in a range between about 30° to about 80°.

16. (Withdrawn) A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the bearing plate comprises:

a lower bearing plate having the stem projecting therefrom; and

an upper bearing plate having the top articular surface formed thereon, one of the lower bearing plate and upper bearing plate having a track formed thereon while the other has a key that slidably rides within the track.

17. (Withdrawn) A condylar implant as recited in claim 16, wherein the key has the configuration of a tenon while the track comprises a mortis configured to slidably receive the tenon.

18. (Original) A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
the bottom surface of the bearing plate having a pocket formed thereon; and
an inlay being secured within the pocket.

19 (Original) A condylar implant as recited in claim 18, wherein the inlay comprises a porous bone ingrowth material.

20. (Original) A condylar implant as recited in claim 19, wherein the pocket and the inlay encircle the stem.

21. (Original) A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the means for connecting the fastener to the stem comprises a threaded socket formed on the stem.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the bearing plate has a maximum thickness in a range between about 2 mm to about 10 mm.

24. (Original) A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, wherein the stem has a length in a range between about 2 mm to about 6 mm.

25. (Withdrawn) A condylar implant as recited in claim 14, further comprising a mounting flange downwardly projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate at a perimeter edge of the bearing plate, the mounting flange bounding at least one hole extending therethrough.

26. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system comprising:
a condylar implant comprising:
 a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface,
 the top articular surface being adapted to mate with a femoral condyle;
 a stem downwardly projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate;
 and
 means for connecting a fastener to the stem;
 a fastener configured to mechanically engage with the stem; and
 a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener.

27. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fastener comprises a shaft having threads formed thereon.

28. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 27, further comprising an enlarged head integrally formed on the shaft or an enlarged crown nut removably mountable on the shaft.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 26, wherein the fastener has external threads that rotate in a first direction and the bone anchor has external threads that rotate in a second direction that is opposite of the first direction.

31. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 26, wherein the bone anchor has an interior surface bounding a channel extending between a first end and an opposing second end, the first end terminating at a first end face, the channel comprising a first channel portion extending from the first end, a second channel portion extending from the second end, and a radially inwardly projecting shoulder disposed between the first channel portion and the second channel portion.

32-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system for use on the proximal end of a tibia, the system comprising:

a condylar implant comprising a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface;

an elongated fastener selectively mountable to the bottom surface of the bearing plate; and

a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener, the bone anchor having an interior surface bounding a channel extending between a first end and an opposing second end, the first end terminating at a first end face, the channel comprising a first channel portion extending from the first end, a second channel portion extending from the second end, and a radially inwardly projecting shoulder disposed between the first channel portion and the second channel portion.

39. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the condylar implant further comprises a stem projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate, the stem being configured to mate with the fastener.

40. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener mounts to the bearing plate so as to form an inside angle between the fastener and the bottom surface of the bearing plate in a range between about 30° to about 80°.

41. (Withdrawn) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the bearing plate comprises:

a lower bearing plate having the bottom surface formed thereon; and

an upper bearing plate having the top articular surface formed thereon, one of the lower bearing plate and upper bearing plate having a track formed thereon while the other has a key that slidably rides within the track.

42. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, further comprising:
the bottom surface of the bearing plate having at least one pocket formed thereon; and
an inlay comprised of a porous bone ingrowth material being secured within the at
least one pocket.

43. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener
comprises an elongated shaft having a length in a range between about 5 mm to about 15 mm.

44. (Withdrawn) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener
comprises an elongated shaft having an enlarged head integrally formed thereon.

45. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, further comprising an
enlarged crown nut removably mountable to the fastener.

46. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the bone anchor
comprises one or more threads or barbs formed on an exterior surface thereof.

47. (Original) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, wherein the fastener has
at least one helical thread that engages with the condylar implant and the bone anchor has at least one
external helical thread, the helical thread of the bone anchor rotating in a direction opposite of the
helical thread of the fastener.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Withdrawn) A condylar implant system as recited in claim [[48]] 38, wherein the
fastener comprises a shaft having an enlarged head integrally formed thereon, the head being biased
against the shoulder of the bone anchor.

50. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, further comprising an enlarged crown nut removably mounted on the fastener and biased against the shoulder of the bone anchor.

51. (Withdrawn) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 38, further comprising a drive rod integrally formed with the fastener, a plurality of spaced apart annular breaking grooves being formed at the intersection between the fastener and the drive rod.

52.-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently amended) A condylar implant system for use on the proximal end of a tibia, the system comprising:

a condylar implant comprising a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface, a stem projecting from the bottom surface of the bearing plate;

an elongated fastener configured to selectively mate with the stem; and

a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener; and

a nut having a passage extending completely therethrough, the nut being removably threaded onto the fastener so as to selectively bias against the tubular bone anchor.

56. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 55, wherein the bearing plate and the stem comprise a unitary member that is fabricated from a single piece of material.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 55, wherein the bone anchor has an exterior surface with at least one helical thread radially outwardly projecting therefrom.

59. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system for use on the proximal end of a tibia, the system comprising:

a condylar implant comprising a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface;

an elongated fastener having a first end and an opposing second end, the first end being removably mounted to the bottom surface of the bearing plate without extending through the bearing plate; and

a nut having a passage extending completely therethrough, the nut being removably threaded onto the fastener from the second end of the fastener.

60. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 59, further comprising a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener.

61. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system as recited in claim 59, wherein the bone anchor has an exterior surface with at least one helical thread radially outwardly projecting therefrom.

62. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant system for use on the proximal end of a tibia, the system comprising:

a condylar implant comprising a bearing plate having a top articular surface and an opposing bottom surface, the top articular surface being adapted to mate with a femoral condyle;

a fastener comprising an elongated shaft having a first end and an opposing second end, the first end being removably mounted to the bottom surface of the bearing plate, an enlarged head being permanently fixed on the shaft or an enlarged nut being removably mountable onto the shaft; and

a tubular bone anchor removably encircling at least a portion of the fastener.

63. (Previously Presented) A condylar implant as recited in claim 18, wherein the inlay is press fit into the pocket.